



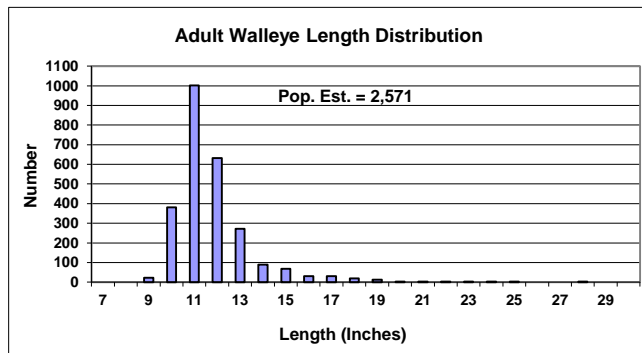
WISCONSIN DNR FISHERIES INFORMATION SHEET

LAKE: LITTLE FORK

COUNTY: ONEIDA

YEAR: 2014

The Department of Natural Resources surveyed Little Fork Lake, Oneida County, from May 8 through 21, 2014, to primarily assess the walleye and muskellunge populations. Little Fork Lake is a drainage lake within the Three Lakes chain of lakes with a sand, gravel, and muck substrate and a naturally-reproducing walleye population. It has a surface area of 354 acres and a maximum depth of 34 feet.



* Note: Adult walleye are defined as all sexable walleye and walleye of unknown sex ≥ 15 inches long.

Walleye



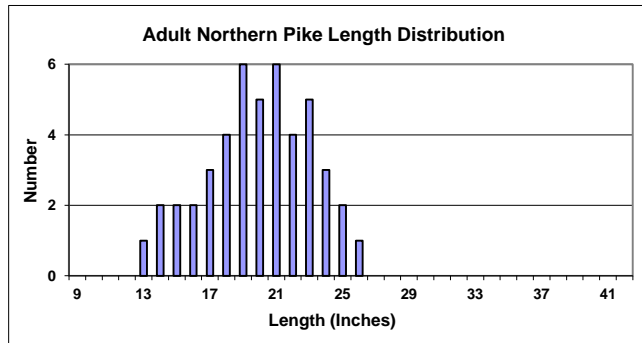
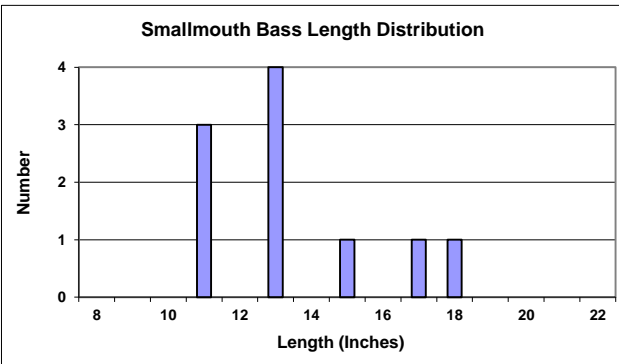
A mark-recapture survey of Little Fork Lake's adult walleye population was conducted from 5/08-5/13, 2014. During 5 days of fyke netting, 492 adult walleye were captured and marked with a fin clip. A crew sampled Little Fork Lake with an electro-fishing boat on May 13 and captured 169 adult walleye. During electro-fishing 21% (36 of 169) of captured walleye bore the fin clip given during fyke netting. The largest walleye we captured was a 28.5-inch female.

Based on those results, Little Fork Lake was estimated to contain 2,571 adult walleye (7.7 /acre). An estimated 6% (160 of 2,571) of adult walleye were 15 inches long or larger.

Smallmouth Bass



Smallmouth bass were not a primary target during our survey of Little Fork Lake. Sampling occurred prior to peak smallmouth spawning. However, we did capture 10 smallmouth bass, 8 inches or larger, during fyke netting and electro-fishing. Of those smallmouth captured, 30% (3 of 10) were 14 inches long or larger. The largest smallmouth captured was 18.3 inches long.

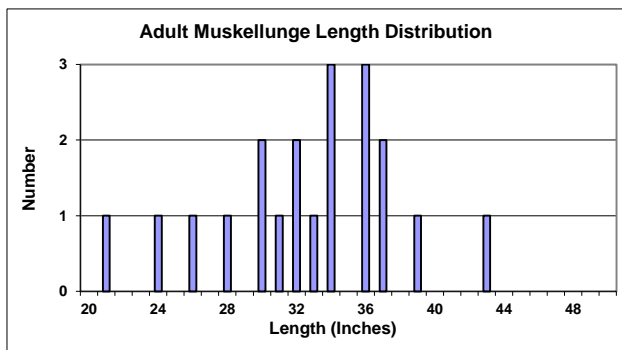


Northern Pike



From May 8 through 21, 2014, 47 adult northern pike were captured in fyke nets fished in Little Fork Lake. Of the adult northern pike captured 98% (46 of 47) were less than 26 inches long. The largest northern pike captured was 26 inches.

* Note: Adult northern pike are defined as all sexable northern pike and northern pike of unknown sex ≥ 12 inches long.



Muskellunge



During our fyke netting and electro-fishing sampling of Little Fork Lake, 20 adult muskellunge were captured. Of the muskellunge captured, 5% (1 of 20) were 40 inches long or larger. The largest muskellunge captured was a 43.5-inch female.

* Note: Adult muskellunge are defined using PSD stock size as all sexable muskellunge and muskellunge of unknown sex ≥ 20 inches long.

Other Species

In addition to the game fish mentioned above, 11 species of fish were captured during fyke netting and electro-fishing sampling of Little Fork Lake. Yellow perch and black crappie were common in our fyke net catches. Also caught were moderate numbers of bluegill, pumpkinseed, and rock bass. Other species sampled included white sucker, yellow and black bullhead, burbot, and common and golden shiner.

A creel survey will be conducted on Little Fork Lake throughout the 2014-15 fishing season to get estimates of fishing effort and angler harvest. Creel clerk Andrew Disch will count and interview anglers and examine their catch. The information gathered will be used to estimate fishing effort and angler harvest.

Table 1. General Fishing Regulations for Little Fork Lake, Oneida County, 2014-15

| FISH SPECIES | OPEN SEASON | DAILY LIMIT | MINIMUM LENGTH |
|-----------------|--|---|---|
| Walleye | May 3 - March 1 | 3 | No min. length but only 1 fish over 14" allowed |
| Largemouth Bass | May 3 - March 1 | 5 in total with SMB | 14 inches |
| Smallmouth Bass | May 3 - June 20 (C&R) June 21 - March 1 (Harvest) | 5 in total with LMB harvest season only | 14 inches |
| Muskellunge | May 24 - Nov. 30 | 1 | 40 inches |
| Northern Pike | May 3 - March 1 | 5 | None |

A brief summary of selected fishing regulations for Little Fork Lake is included above (Table 1). While the regulatory information provided was current at the time the surveys were conducted, it is not comprehensive and should not be used as a substitute for the current fishing regulation pamphlet. You may obtain a copy of current fishing regulations when you purchase your fishing license, or download a copy from our web site at:

<http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/fishing/regulations/>

This report is interim only; data and findings should not be considered final. Results of creel surveys should be available by June 2015. Watch for survey summaries at: <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/Fishing/north/trtysprngsrvys.html> or contact:

Lawrence Eslinger, Treaty Fisheries Biologist
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
8770 Highway J
Woodruff, WI 54568
(715) 356-5211 Ext. 209
Email: lawrence.eslinger@wisconsin.gov

For answers to questions about fisheries management activities and plans for Little Fork Lake, Oneida County, contact:

John Kubisiak, Fisheries Biologist
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
107 Sutliff Avenue
Rhinelander, WI 54501
(715) 365-8919
Email: johnf1.kubisiak@wisconsin.gov